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DIRECTORATE OF
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【 South Vietnam: South Vietnamese troops in the Mekong Delta seem to be holding their own.

Company-sized elements of a Viet Cong main force regiment have lost 46 killed by South Vietnamese infantrymen operating near the capital of Vinh Binh Province. South Vietnamese losses included six killed and 23 wounded. Another 60 Communists were killed by government troops in two other delta actions yesterday.

There is some evidence that increased fighting may be in store for the provinces northwest of Saigon. Several sources indicate that enemy shellings and sapper attacks against selected allied targets can be expected soon.

(Map)]

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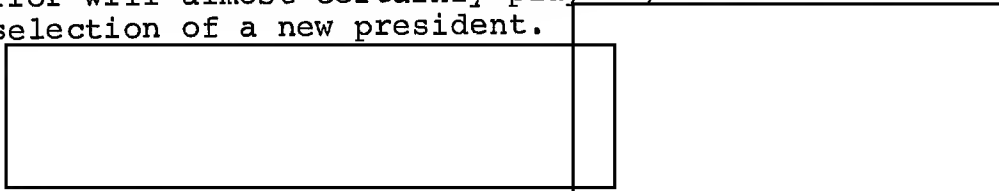
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Somali Republic: President Abdirascid Ali Scermarche's assassination yesterday creates a serious political vacuum.

The President was killed by a policeman from the paramilitary mobile police force while touring drought-stricken areas in northern Somalia. The motives of the assassin are unknown, but acts of violence are common in Somalia and often result from deeply held tribal grievances. Scermarche escaped an assassination attempt in July 1968 by an individual motivated partially by tribal frictions.

Under the constitution, the president of the National Assembly, Muktar Mohammed Hussen, has become acting president. The 124 deputies of the assembly are required to meet within 30 days to elect a successor. Most deputies are already in Mogadiscio awaiting the opening of parliament later this month. Prime Minister Egal is presently on his way back from a trip to the US.

There is no clear successor in sight, but the pro-Western Egal and the powerful minister of interior will almost certainly play key roles in the selection of a new president.



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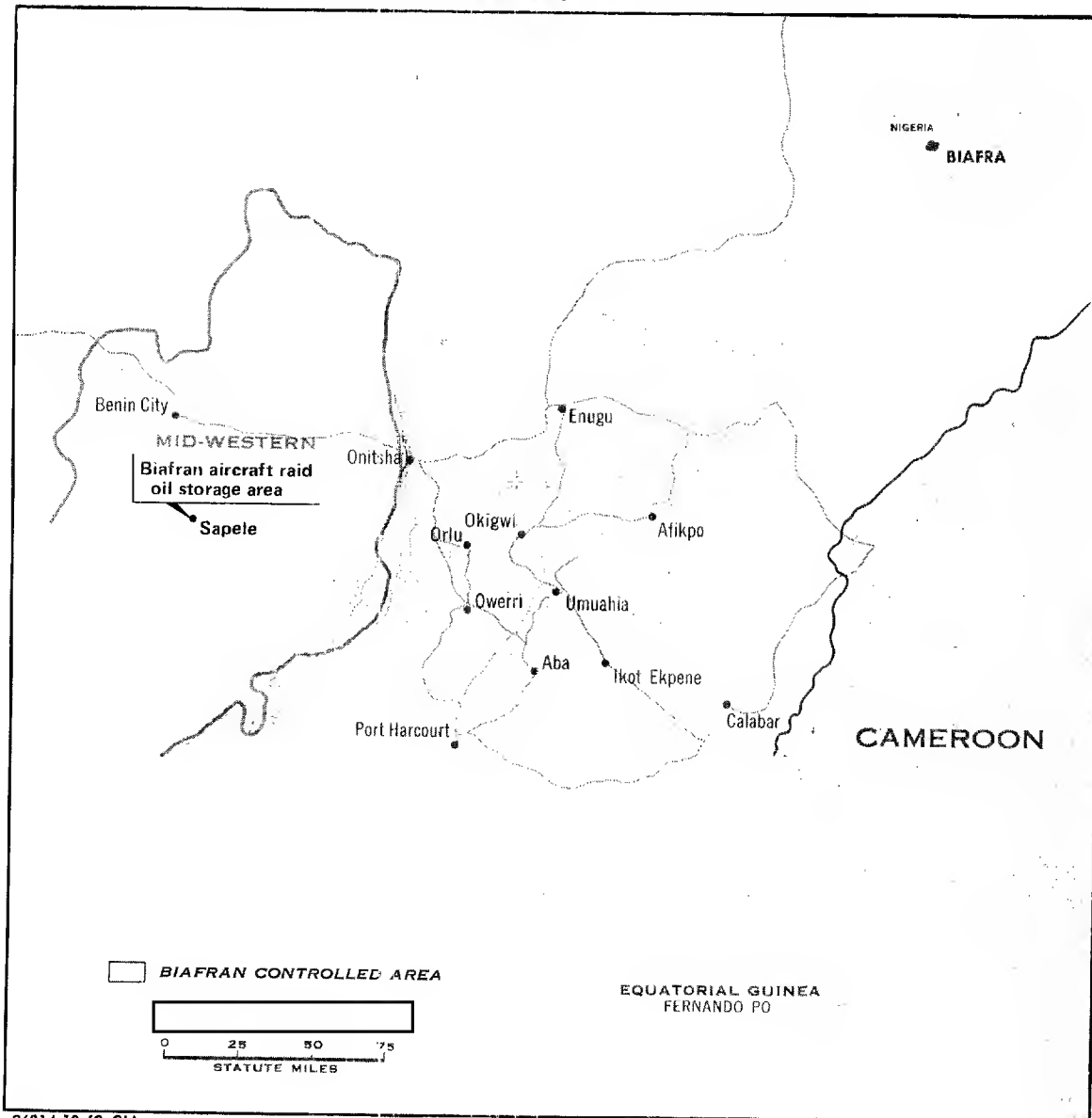
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Biafran Raids Continue to Disrupt Nigerian Oil Production



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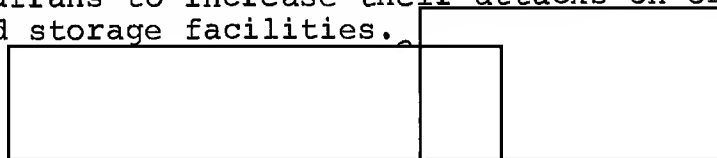
Nigeria: The Biafran air force has struck another oil company installation in federal-held territory.

A storage area near Sapele in Mid-Western State has been damaged in the first raid on a Mobil facility. Shell-BP and Gulf, the only producing oil companies in Nigeria, have undergone six air attacks since last May.

Oil production reached a high of almost 600,000 barrels a day last April but is currently running at approximately 500,000. The decrease results from damage to oil installations by Biafran air and ground attacks and some marketing problems. Oil production was expected to reach one million barrels per day by the end of the year, but will not because oil producers are holding back on expansion in the face of the Biafran threat to their personnel and equipment.

The Biafrans currently have nine Swedish trainer aircraft, which have been equipped with rockets. They are now awaiting shipments of larger and longer-range aircraft acquired in Europe. These include T-6 propeller-driven trainers and Gloster Meteor jet fighter-trainers. These aircraft will enable the Biafrans to increase their attacks on oil production and storage facilities.

(Map)



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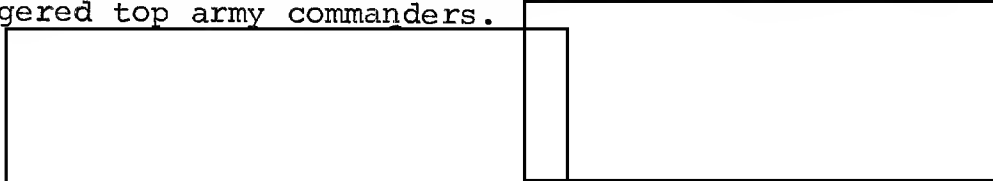
Brazil: The timetable for the succession to ailing President Costa e Silva has been completed.

On Tuesday the governing triumvirate issued Institutional Act 16 declaring the presidency and vice presidency vacant and setting an "election" to fill the posts. The only two authorized political parties are to register their candidates with the officers of the Senate.

The new chief executive will be chosen next week by a joint session of Congress on the basis of an absolute majority vote. Although this provision raises the possibility of more than one candidate, there is no doubt that the choice of the military high command, General Emilio Medici, will be the victor. His running mate will probably be Navy Minister Rademaker Grunewald. The new officials will be inaugurated on 30 October and will serve until 15 March 1974.

The act specifies that the triumvirate will continue to exercise the powers of the executive until the inauguration, and authorizes it to issue decrees-laws as it considers necessary. This provision implies that additional cancellations of the political rights of persons allegedly implicated in subversive and corrupt activities are likely.

Institutional Act 17 was also issued on 14 October. It authorizes military commanders to transfer to reserve status for an indefinite period any officers deemed guilty of endangering the unity of the armed forces. This sanction may be aimed directly at controversial General Albuquerque Lima, whose protests about not being selected for the presidency angered top army commanders.



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Jamaica: [Radical leaders may try to use student demonstrations scheduled to begin today to provoke the police.]

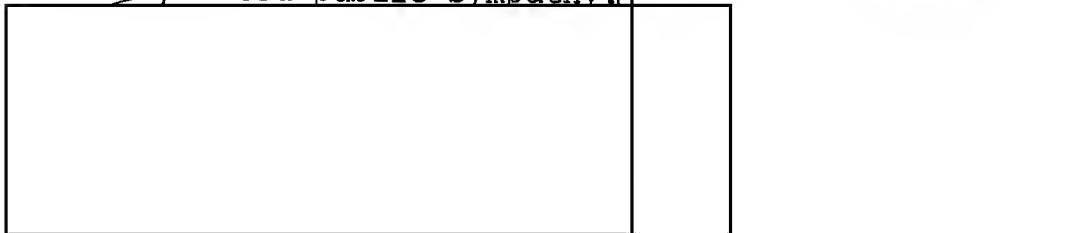
[Students at the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) are protesting the government's ban on the visit of a radical Guyanese lecturer. Government exclusion of another Guyanese professor last October sparked demonstrations that touched off large-scale rioting in Kingston.]



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[Last October's events, which had some racial overtones, amply demonstrated that the danger of unrest does not lie in the effectiveness of radical leaders or their rather minimal followings, but in the inflammatory conditions that plague Kingston. Large segments of the population are extremely frustrated by the high unemployment rate and by their oppressive slum existence.]

[The ban against the professor's visit, and related protests, have also prompted unrest at the UWI campus in Trinidad, where boycotting students have attracted public sympathy.]



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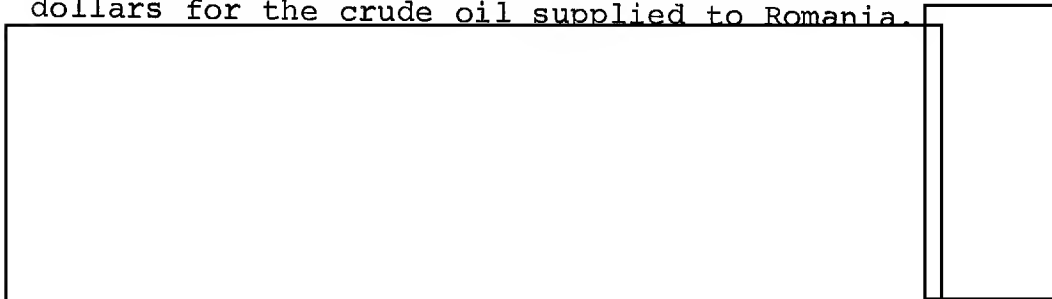
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Romania - Saudi Arabia - Pakistan: Romania will reportedly pay for crude oil from Saudi Arabia by shipping refinery equipment to Pakistan which, in turn, will pay the Saudis.

The recent tripartite deal grew out of attempts by Saudi Arabia to find a use for credits established in 1968 through the shipment to Romania of about 350,000 tons of oil valued at about \$3.4 million. This was done under terms of a barter agreement that provided for total shipments of nine million tons over a four-year period. King Faysal, unwilling to permit Romanian goods to enter the country, suspended oil shipments until an alternative use of the credits could be found.

Under the new agreement, Romanian equipment would be used to expand the capacity of a locally owned refinery in West Pakistan. The foreign exchange cost of the refinery equipment is estimated at \$12 million. Romania reportedly will be paid in two ways: about one fourth will be in the form of Pakistani carpet valued at \$3 million, and the remaining \$9 million by crude oil shipments from Saudi Arabia, including the oil previously shipped to Romania. The Pakistanis reportedly will have 14 years in which to repay the Saudi Government in dollars for the crude oil supplied to Romania.



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USSR: Intercosmos 1, the scientific satellite launched by the Soviets on 14 October, is part of a Soviet program for increased cooperation with East European countries in space activities. The satellite appears to be functioning normally in its mission of studying solar radiation. TASS announced that Intercosmos 1 carries instruments developed and made in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and the USSR, marking the first time the Soviets have allowed East European equipment on one of their space vehicles. The satellite is the first major product of Intercosmos--a sluggish program of space cooperation in which the East Europeans previously did little more than supply space tracking data.

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India - East Germany: Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh was quoted by Indian journalists in London as saying that "diplomatic recognition of East Germany will come some time," and "if we feel the need to strengthen these relations we shall do so." This statement, the most positive to date, was softened somewhat when Singh returned to New Delhi and said relations were developing. The Indians would like to stress their "nonaligned" image and improve their trade ties by upgrading diplomatic relations with Pankow; they fear, however, that Bonn would retaliate by cutting important foreign aid. New Delhi now has a trade representative in East Germany, and any upgrading of this mission will depend on India's assessment of Bonn's reaction to the recognition issue over the next few months.

[REDACTED]

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Hungary - West Germany: [REDACTED] Bonn and Budapest have agreed to give their respective trade missions authority to grant visas. This is the first positive political move toward improved relations between the countries since Soviet and East German opposition blocked Hungary's plans to recognize West Germany in 1967. [REDACTED] the Hungarian party politburo reviewed its policy toward Bonn last summer and the visa agreement, pending since that time, indicates that a decision was probably made to be more forthcoming. The agreement, which falls short of a full consular arrangement, will facilitate a future move toward this, although little more can be expected until Budapest samples the reaction of its Warsaw Pact allies.

[REDACTED]

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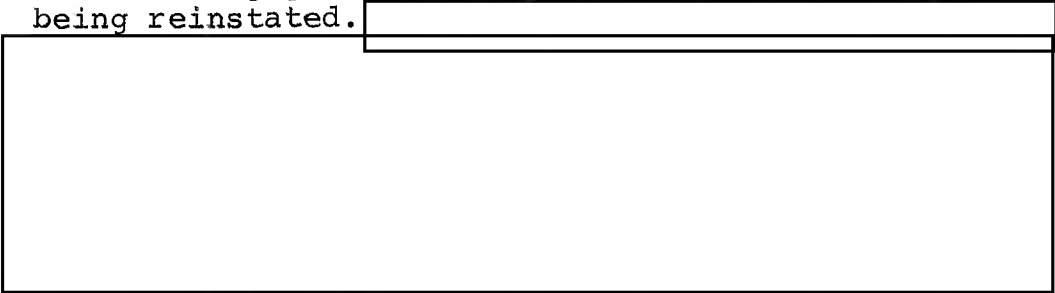
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Congo (Kinshasa): President Mobutu has moved to ease the tension between his regime and Congolese students. An amnesty for all students involved in the demonstrations last June was announced on 14 October, Mobutu's 39th birthday. The 31 students sentenced to prison terms ranging up to 20 years are being released, and hundreds expelled from the National Pedagogical Institute and other schools are being reinstated.



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Bahamas: Prime Minister Pindling has temporarily quelled opposition to his leadership by making some cabinet changes. He assigned several ministerial posts to party legislators, probably in order to buy enough "loyalty" to fend off any attempts to oust him at the party convention later this month. Pindling, however, made no changes that affect the power of Deputy Prime Minister Hanna, a focal point for dissent. The important Freeport business community is dissatisfied with Hanna's alleged antibusiness and antiforeign views. Recent cabinet resignations have also unsettled public confidence in the administration. Pindling will have to reassert his leadership in the party and shore up investor confidence as well if he is to avoid further challenges to his authority.



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